

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S.1. Special Branch *Edith*

**REPORT**

Date November 27, 1937

Subject B. Hayton Fleet : Fleet News Agency.

Made by D.S. Larby

Forwarded by *C. Crawford*

B. Hayton Fleet, a British subject registered at H.B.M. Consulate-General, was born in Leningrad (formerly St. Petersburg) and is a man of approximately 66 years of age.

Prior to the revolution in Russia, Fleet occupied the position of accountant in several big British enterprises, operating in Siberia, notably in Nikolaevsk-on-Amur where he was employed in a British financed mine.

In 1918, Fleet was residing in Vladivostok but no further information regarding his activities in that locality is available. In the years 1921 and 1922, Fleet resided in Dairen and in the latter year visited Kamchatka, later proceeding to Harbin where he became associated with a certain Mr. Simpson in the operation of the Angasta (Anglo-Asiatic) telegraphic News Agency, a pro-Soviet institution. Subsequently, Fleet began publishing an English daily newspaper, the Harbin Observer. While he was living in Harbin, Fleet maintained particularly friendly relations with members of the Soviet Consular service who frankly admitted to British Consular Officials that Fleet was regularly supplied with information of a non-confidential nature for publication in the aforementioned journal. During this period of his journalistic career, Fleet is said to have acted in an unofficial capacity as correspondent for the North China Daily News. According to information obtained from H.B.M. Consulate-General, Fleet was a regular visitor to British Consular functions in Harbin and was generally regarded as a loyal British subject of little education, whose personal observations during his residence in Russia had led him to adopt pro-Soviet sympathies.

From 1934 to the time of his departure from Harbin in 1936,

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Fleet was constantly in difficulties with the Japanese authorities while the latter were consolidating their rule in Manchukuo, the culminating point of his relations with the authorities being reached early in the year 1936 when he hurriedly left Harbin for Shanghai arriving here in May 1936.

Since his arrival in Shanghai, Fleet has been particularly friendly with a German, Wolfgang Sorge, an individual who, prior to the advent of the Nazi regime in Germany was suspected of being a secret agent of the Soviet Government. Sorge is a man of some journalistic ability and is stated to have recently left Shanghai; he is now believed to be in either Japan or North China.

On June 10, 1936, Fleet established the Fleet News Agency the office of which is located in room 316, 160 Avenue Edward VII.

In addition to Fleet himself, one foreigner, two Chinese clerks and one Chinese translator comprise the staff of the agency. The foreigner is one, S. Worlock, a British subject, forty years of age, who received his discharge from the Royal Corps of Signals on December 11, 1932, after having completed twelve years' service. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities in the Shanghai area, Worlock resided at 11A McGregor Road but subsequently removed to 47, Route de Grouchy where Fleet is also residing.

Reverting to the Fleet News Agency, information obtained from a number of different sources tends to indicate that this concern has been in receipt of financial assistance from Soviet organs. As a result of the occupation of the Shanghai area by the Japanese forces, the officials of "Tass", the

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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telegraphic news agency of the Soviet Union, are reported to be extremely apprehensive of their future in view of the attitude of the Japanese to all Soviet institutions. In this connection, it should be recalled that the local offices of "Tass" have been closed since the outbreak of hostilities in the Shanghai area, all matters pertaining to the work of the agency being dealt with by the assistant manager, Mr. I.R. Pevsin at 203 Route Cardinal Mercier. In view of the fact that the Fleet News Agency is operated by a British subject, thus rendering it less likely to be subjected to interference, numerous people connected with the journalistic profession surmise that the news service formerly handled by "Tass" will now be controlled by the Fleet Agency. At this point it is opportune to observe that, according to information obtained from Japanese sources in Harbin, prior to Fleet's departure for Shanghai in 1936, the Soviet Government was making preparations for the financing of a news agency with a head office in the Far East and with branches in the principal cities of the world. The sum of 250,000 gold dollars was mentioned as the amount of capital that the Soviet Government was proposing to subscribe.

Whether the establishment of the Fleet News Agency in Shanghai is in anyway connected with the above-mentioned proposal is problematical, but it is interesting to note that officials of leading Shanghai newspaper offices are agreed that the news sheets published twice a day by Fleet are worthless and are nothing more than a rewritten version of the News supplied by Reuters and other agencies of repute. Further in one instance an official of the Shanghai Times

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went so far as to state that it was his considered opinion that the news sheet which incidentally is supplied gratis to this newspaper, was issued merely to justify the subsidy which Fleet must be receiving from some unknown source.

Attached hereto are copies of news sheets issued by Reuters and Fleet, a scrutiny of which reveals at once the marked similarity of wording in both the documents. Enquiries made at various newspaper offices indicate that this apparent copying of other news agencies' handwork by Fleet has been very noticeable since the beginning of August. How the Fleet News Agency obtains copies of Reuters news sheets is rather difficult to say, though it has been suggested by Mr. C.J. Chancellor, manager of the Shanghai office of Reuters Ltd., that a copy may be obtained when Reuters messenger is delivering copies to the China Press or the Shanghai Times, the offices of which are located in the same building as Fleet's office. A careful watch by Special Branch detectives on the offices of the respective organizations named above has failed to yield any information likely to substantiate Mr. Chancellor's suggestion. It, therefore, seems probable that other methods, of which a number are possible, are being used by Fleet or his employees to obtain Reuter's news service.

In view of the fact that Fleet has not as yet registered his agency with the Municipal Police, it would appear that the Police are to a certain extent justified in requesting Fleet to visit the Special Branch when it would be possible to question this individual without raising his suspicions.

D. S. *H. Harby*

D.C., Special Branch).

*DR*  
28/11



November 25, 1937.

SHANGHAI GODO

ANTI-JAPANESE RUSSIAN PAPER ORDERED TO SUSPEND  
PUBLICATION

Following a request made by the Japanese military authorities, the Shanghai Municipal Council is reported to have decided to suspend the publication of a Russian newspaper called the "Novosti Dnia," located at No. 620 Avenue Foch.

This paper has been insulting Japan and publishing false propaganda. It will be recalled that after the "China Daily Herald," a Soviet Russian organ in Shanghai, was suspended for disturbing the peace and good order, the "Novosti Dnia" was published in its place and has since been disseminating anti-Japanese propaganda, for it is virtually owned by the Tass News Agency.

It is also reported that the "Fleet News Agency," operated by the former editor of the "Harbin Daily Herald," who was ordered to leave Manchukuo for having been involved in anti-Manchukuoan and anti-Japanese activities, will also be ordered to close down by the authorities as his activities are detrimental to peace and order in the Settlement.

Did we  
have a  
from Russia  
about this?  
DB

S.1.

26th. 26/11.

*1606. 547H*

The Fleet News Agency

SHANGHAI OFFICE  
TELEPHONE 13983

亞路一六〇號三樓  
英國快訊社上海分社  
電話一三九八三號

4

NOVEMBER 3rd. 1937.

MOMENTOUS NINE POWER CONFERENCE.

*See  
Reuter ①*

LONDON. November 3. (Fleetnews). The eyes of the whole world are this morning directed to Brussels where a momentous Nine-Power Conference will be opened to-day. The Special object of this conference is to find some method of settling the Sino-Japanese conflict, and the first step will probably be to learn whether the Japanese will agree to have any dealings with the Conference, or whether they are determined to carry on the conflict without permitting mediation of any kind. In the latter case, the Conference will be faced with a problem which it will find exceedingly difficult to solve. It is learned that the Italian delegate had a long talk with the Japanese Ambassador to Belgium last night, but the nature of their talk is not known. (Fleetnews).

R E U T E R R: /

Eyes Of World Turn Towards Brussels

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World Powers To Begin Effort To Settle Sino-Japanese Conflict

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Japanese Refuse "Any Contact With Conference"

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Norman Davis Works On Formula

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BRUSSELS, Nov. 3.

The interest of the world shifts to Brussels today, where the momentous Nine-Power Conference, summoned in an effort to settle the Sino-Japanese conflict by agreement, will open at 11 a.m. (7p.m. Shanghai time).

No hard and fast programme has been prepared. The first step will be to discover whether the Japanese are prepared to have dealings with the Conference, and also whether they will state on what conditions they are prepared to cease hostilities.

It will also be necessary to ascertain the terms on which the Chinese Government would be prepared to discuss peace.

When these factors are established, it will be possible to estimate the chances of a settlement.

At the public session today, the principal delegates will make speeches and probably appeal for conciliation.

According to Japanese quarters, the Belgian Foreign Office yesterday asked the Japanese Embassy if it proposed to send an observer to the Conference, and the Japanese Ambassador is said to have replied that he did not propose to have any contact with the Conference.

The Italian delegate had a long interview with the Japanese Ambassador last evening.

(over)

3/11/37

x/tja/ek

Sun Huo Wan Pao (生活晚报) dated Feb. 8:

BRITISH SUBJECT TO START CHINESE PAPER

A certain British subject who came to Shanghai recently from Hongkong intends to publish in this city a paper to be known as the "Hwa Kwong Daily News" (华光日报). He will act as publisher. The paper will make its first appearance some time in spring this year.

Believed to be

B. Haydon Fleet.

Seen

12.1.4

Noted

25/2.

Noted

28/2.

THE MUNICIPAL  
S. D. REC. STAMP  
S. E. D. 7452  
30 7 31

Extract from D.3558 - Report on "Tass Agency"  
organisation and staff, dated July 29, 1936.

Recently a British subject named Hayton Fleet arrived in Shanghai and set up a business which is known as "Fleet News Agency" with offices at Room 316, No.16 Avenue Edward VII. Fleet is a Scotsman who has lived many years in Russia and had had extensive journalistic experience. He is known to have a strong antipathy towards White Russians and is believed to be always willing to further the cause of the Soviet.

It is reported that this man will in the near future take over the outside organisation of "Tass".

**Memorandum.**

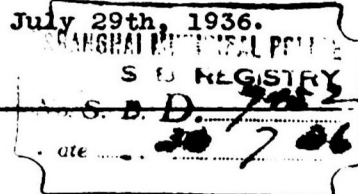
POLICE FORCE.  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Shanghai, Sept 1932  
To Mr. B. B. ...

Mr. Atchard  
has with him  
of "Black News"  
agency, who  
Mr. Atchard taking  
over the "Law News"  
agency. He also  
intends to start  
an evening newspaper  
on from Sept. 1.

S. F. B. ...





### REORGANIZATION OF SOVIET WINE INDUSTRY

MOSCOW, July 28. The Council of Peoples Commissars and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have approved a program elaborated by the Commissariat of the Food Industry regarding the extension of the production of Soviet champagne from 300 thousand bottles in 1936 to 12 million bottles in 1942, and Crimean dessert and table wines from thirty thousand decalitres in 1936 to 275 thousand in 1939.

The decision also outlines a number of measures for the reorganization of the Soviet wine industry.

Fleetnews.

### SPANISH REBELS PREPARING NEW ATTACK

LONDON, July 28. According to latest Madrid telegrams the leader of the rebels, General Franco, has crossed from Morocco to Spain and is preparing to launch a new attack on Madrid with a much stronger force. At San Sebastian the rebels have been defeated losing about 400 men.

Fleetnews.

### HARBIN WHEAT RISES

HARBIN, July 27. Owing to the floods and the expectation of a bad wheat harvest, the price of this cereal on the local market has risen to yen 6.40 per sack. Bakers are raising the price of bread.

Fleetnews.

### MOSCOW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RETURNING

MOSCOW, July 28. The Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Tanekishi Ohta, is leaving for home and has arranged to board a steamer at Vladivostok on August 10th, arriving in Japan on August 13th.

Fleetnews.

### FRANCE AND MANCHURIA

HARBIN, July 27. An important proposal for the establishment of specific trade arrangements between France and Manchuria, has been presented to the Manchurian Government and the Japanese authorities at Changchun by Mr. Louis Lerlet, Far Eastern representative of the Franco-Manchurian Enterprise Company, Ltd. The proposal is to form a financial company under the laws of Manchuria to facilitate economic collaboration between the two countries.

Fleetnews.

202-C

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

ANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
FILING REGISTRY

No. S. B. D. 7452

Section 2, Special Branch

REPORT

Date July 1, 1936

Subject B. Hayton Fleet.

Made by D.S. Tcharamshansky

Forwarded by T. Coyne & S.S.

Information has been received that B. Hayton Fleet, British, ex-publisher and editor of the "Harbin Observer", arrived in Shanghai from Harbin sometime during May last and on June 10, 1936, established here the "Fleet News Agency", the office of which is situated in room 316, No. 160 Avenue Edward VII.

Prior to <sup>the</sup> revolution in Russia Hayton Fleet resided in Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, Siberia, where he was known as a well-to-do mining engineer and merchant. He subsequently resided in Vladivostok for some time and later proceeded to Harbin where he opened a provision store. From 1925 he owned an English bookstore in that city and at the same time was connected with The Anglo-Asiatic Telegraph Agency (Angasta). A few years ago he started the publication of the "Harbin Observer", a daily newspaper in English of pro-Soviet tendencies. It is reported that he received financial assistance from Soviet sources. In connection with his pro-Soviet attitude Hayton Fleet had several conflicts with the Japanese authorities in Manchoukuo and finally had to leave Harbin.

In Shanghai, it is said, he is connected with the local Soviet daily newspaper "China Daily Herald". The editor of which A.S. Denisoff he knew well when in Harbin. It is reported also that Hayton Fleet is on friendly terms with N. P. Nechkin, ex-Soviet journalist, who was employed with "Angasta News Agency" in Harbin and is at present connected with the "Novosty Dnia", edited and published by V.A. Chilikin in Shanghai.

The staff of the Fleet News Agency include 3 Chinese. No information is so far available regarding foreign members of the <sup>office</sup> ~~agency~~. Hayton Fleet resides at 47 Route de Grouchy with his wife, a Russian by origin, and his son.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Copy sent to S. S. R. 2/1

D. S.

\*See also Files:-  
S 709 & S 710

\*See S 5746

\*See S 4665

FILE  
702

Tcharamshansky  
D. S.

C.I.D. File No. 7  
No. 1.0. 9028  
Date 6.9.29.

## Red Propaganda Charged Against British Editor

Harbin Resident Summoned  
Before Consul Over  
Police Charges

(EVENING POST RADIO)

HARBIN, Sept. 4.—Harbin police today raided the offices of the White Russian newspaper called the "Pravda," which is allegedly Soviet inspired. The police also charged the local British editor, a man named Haydon Fleet, with using the British flag to protect a Russian propaganda bulletin known as the Angasta News Agency.

Fleet is the editor of the Harbin evening newspaper printed in the English language known as "The Observer," and the offices of the Russian bulletin occupy the same building. Fleet was called before the British consul to answer the charges brought by the police but so far the results are unknown.

Fleet was formerly connected with a British gold-mining enterprise located at Nikolaevsk, at the mouth of the Amur River.

Haydon

YB

6.9.29

Lee  
7/9.

SPECIAL BRANCH REGISTRY.

File No. *D. 7452*

SUBJECT

*B. Haydon Fleet*

*Fleet New Agency*

NEW LIFE, FEBRUARY 15, 1942

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. M. REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D. 7452  
Date 1942-2-11

**УБИТЫЕ ГОРЕМ ЖЕНА И СЫН**

**извещают друзей и знакомых,  
что траурная месса о скончав-  
шемся дорогом муже и па-  
почке**

**B. Hayton  
Fleet**

**состоится во вторник 17-го  
февраля в 2 ч. 30 мин. дня**

**в**

**International Funeral Directors  
207, Kiachow Road.**

File:

**Fleet's Book Store**

798 Av. Joffre Shanghai Tel. 74730

## Смерть Б. Х. Флита

Вчера в «Каунтри Сана-торнум Госпитале» скончался известный в местных иностранных и советских кругах, дальневосточный старожила Б. Х. Флит.

Англичанин по происхождению, он родился в России и там же прожил большую половину своей жизни; в последний период своего пребывания в России он занимал пост английского консула в Николаевске на Амуре.

До приезда на Дальний Восток он занимался главным образом промышленно-коммерческой деятельностью, а прибыв в Харбин занялся издательской работой.

В Харбине он в течение

долгого времени возглавлял телеграфное агентство «Ангаста», а также издавал и редактировал газету «Харбин Обсервер» на английском языке, и журнал «Театр и Искусство» на русском.

В Шанхае Б. Х. Флит имел в течение нескольких лет свое телеграфное агентство «Флит Ньюз Эдженси», которое закрылось уже в связи с последними событиями.

Около месяца тому назад Б. Х. Флит заболел склерозом мозга, что вынудило его лечь в госпиталь.

Вчера в час дня он скончался.

После покойного остались вдова и сын.

**Е. А. Карукес и Нина Карукес**

скорбят о кончине дорогого друга

**B. Hayton Fleet**

и выражают соболезнование Наталии Андреевне  
и Теду.

**А. Л. ДИК С ЖЕНОЙ**

скорбит о смерти

**B. H. FLEET**

и выражает соболезнование  
семье покойного



CHINA PRESS.

OCT 10 1939

## Puppet Paper Attacks British News Agency

Organization Is Puppet  
Of Chungking, Says  
Sin Shun Pao

A scathing attack on the British owned *Fleet News Agency* was made yesterday in the leader of the *Sin Shun Pao*, Japanese controlled Chinese language daily in Shanghai.

Branding it as a "puppet" of the "Kuomintang Government," the editorial alleged that the agency's work was chiefly in the fabrication of news reports which are entirely groundless.

Every news agency, worthy of its name, has branch offices at the sending points, it was asserted, but messages of the British service "may carry a Tokyo, Kobe, Harbin, Chungking, Hankow or Canton dateline where it has neither representatives or correspondents."

"Since its resumption of service," the editorial went on, "the Agency at no expense fabricated news to be sold to local anti-Japanese publications and received subsidies from the Kuomintang regime. Its British owners notwithstanding, the service is only a 'puppet'."

A Japanese photographer, accompanied by a Korean aide, broke into the *Fleet News Agency's* offices at 100 Avenue Edward VII last Friday afternoon and started snapping interior pictures.

Grabbed by police for trespassing, the Japanese asserted that he had been sent to take pictures of the Agency by his paper, the *Tokyo Asahi*, local Japanese daily.

Mr. B. H. Fleet, owner of the organization, yesterday reiterated that no complaints against the intruders would be filed with the British consular authorities here. He said he considered the incident harmless.

For Further News

File

C 10/10

*Special Branch*  
7002  
10 3

Misc. 914/39.

7A  
Central  
October 6th, 39.

**Dispute over a photograph taken of the outside view of Fleet News Agency office situated in the Shanghai Times Building.**

In response to a telephone message received at this station at about 5.30 p.m. 6-10-39 from C.P.C. 933 requesting the service of a Japanese policeman outside the Shanghai Times Building, No. 160 Ave. N. 111 to attend a trouble caused by two Japanese inside the premises, P.S. 678 Hurat proceeded to the scene and subsequently brought to the station two Japanese namely the Ji Yei (嵯峨英) and Mi Yei Hatan (李永完) both employed by the Taihoku Shingo News Agency, No. 208 Seward Road in possession of one leather bag containing a camera and flash-light apparatus and a male Chinese named Wang Da Ping (王一平), chief translator in the employ of Fleet News Agency (英国快报社) occupying Room 216, third floor of the said building for enquiries.

As the result of questioning on the three persons concerned made with the assistance of Mr. Jones, the following facts were ascertained by the undersigned.

Acting on information from one T. Hatanaka (田中健), Japanese in charge the Photographer's Section of the said Japanese news agency, the above said two Japanese went into the Shanghai Times Building and took a photograph of the outside view of the Fleet News Agency office.



S. 2

C. 7  
10

887/10

107/10

Misc. 914/20.

1(Sheet 2)

However, the flash light was noticed by the aforementioned employee of the said agency who followed the two photographers to the entrance of the building and berated them for taking such an action without permission of their concern whereupon a quarrel ensued between the three which resulted in the police attending.

When communicated with, Mr. B.M. Fleet, British subject, director of the agency in question stated that he wished to know the reason for the photographing by the Tairiku Shimpu and to obtain if possible the negative of the photograph taken.

On being questioned the two foreigners stated that they had no knowledge as to what the photograph was needed for. Their agency was then communicated with and a representative named Mr. E. Kuroki (伊藤) attended this station and divulged the intention for the action as that, in view of the agency in question having heretofore supplied news of anti-Japanese atrocities from cables coming from various places around the world to the Chinese vernacular news agencies with headlines and anti-Japanese news edited thereon, his agency wished to obtain the photo to be inserted as a picture in an article to be published in the morning paper of the 7-25-38 for the purpose of arousing the anti-Japanese

Misc. 914/30.

1(Sheet 3)

question for its recent anti-Japanese propaganda. He refused to hand over the negative to the Fleet News Agency, though he acknowledged the action as being irregular but stated it was not criminal.

Informed of the results of the enquiries by detectives, MR. Fleet expressed his opinion that he did not attach much importance to the occurrence and that he had no great objection to the Japanese news agency publishing the photograph, although he would rather they handed over the negative. He denied the allegation of circulating anti-Japanese news.

The three Japanese news agency employees were accordingly allowed to go with the camera and negative after the occurrence was communicated with to MR. Robertson, S.S."A" Division who was of the opinion that S.S.C. had no authority to seize the negative, the photographing not having infringed any law applied in the Settlement as long as illegal access to the office had not been made for that purpose, but that it was advisable for the Japanese news agency to hand over the negative voluntarily for the sake of an amicable settlement.

On MR. Robertson's instruction, the Japanese were cautioned before landing regarding the consequences of their action and advised to adopt a more precautionary procedure in future.

*W. G. Ashmagan*  
S.S.C.

*W. Duncan*  
Sen. Det. 1/c.

7/10

S.S.C."A" Div.

SHANGHAI EVENING POST &amp; MERCURY.

OCT 7 1938

## **Fleetnews Office Raid Said Good Advertizing**

"It was a stupid thing to do" said Mr. B. H. Fleet, of the Fleetnews Agency, to the Shanghai Evening Post today with reference to the sensational raid on his office by Tairiku Shimpo photographers last night. "There wasn't any need for their melodramatic action. All they had to do was to ask me if they could take a photograph, and I'd have let them do so."

Asked if he was making any protest against the "raid," Mr. Fleet replied in the negative. "Why should I?" he asked. "It's a very fine advertisement, and free advertising at that."

Mr. Fleet pointed out that this was the third visit from Tairiku Shimpo men to his offices had had within 24 hours. On the previous evening a representative of the paper had called on Mr. Fleet and advised him not to pay his subscription to unauthorized persons (Mr. Fleet is a subscriber to the paper). It appears that somebody has been making money illegally in this manner.

Next, only two hours before the camera raid, a Tairiku Shimpo collector had come around for the subscription. Mr. Fleet had phoned the Tairiku to check up the genuineness of this man, found him in order, and paid his subscription.

Then came the raid, when two photographers burst into the office, took a hurried picture with flashbulbs, and then ran away. They were caught by Police and taken to Central Station. Asked by Mr. Fleet why they had staged the raid, they said they were trying to take a photograph of an anti-Japanese radio transmitter, allegedly Mr. Fleet's.

*Liu*  
*C 8/10*

CHINA PRESS.

OCT 7 1939

### ***Detained Japanese***



The man in the civilian clothes, his mouth agape, is a Japanese photographer who "invaded" the premises of the *First News Agency*, 100 Avenue Edouard VII, just after his arrest by a Chinese constable. Photographer George Lacks snapped the picture, whereupon the Japanese broke away from the constable and started running. Lacks—

*I look now as my  
File  
C 4/10*



OCT 7 1939

## Japanese Cameramen "Invade" British News Agency Offices

Photographers From Tairiku Shimpō Arrested  
By S. M. P. After Taking Pictures  
Of Fleet News Quarters

Believed to have been seeking evidence that might show the presence of wireless sending and receiving apparatus, a Japanese photographer, accompanied by a Korean helper, broke into the offices of the *Fleet News Agency*, a British concern, 160 Avenue Edward VII. at 5 p.m. yesterday and started taking interior pictures.

Displaying colossal boldness, the two men shoved up the main door of the offices and touched off flash bulbs in taking pictures. The office staff was still on the premises and the office boy, frightened but still in possession of his power of speech, ran screaming into the hallway as the two photographers took to their heels and dashed toward the landing of the stairway.

### Nabbed By Police

The two men had three flights of stairs to negotiate before reaching the ground floor. According to eye-witnesses, their dash down the steps was a sight to behold and remember but their speed got them nothing. They were collared by the police as they started out of the main entrance of the building.

Asked to explain, the Japanese photographer declared that he had been sent to take pictures of the entire office of the *Fleet News Agency* by his paper, the *Tairiku Shimpō*, local Japanese daily.

His paper wanted the picture, he explained, because *Fleet News* was believed to be anti-Japanese. The editors of the *Tairiku Shimpō*, he declared, wanted to see what the offices of the news agency looked like.

### Trespassing Admitted

The two photographers admitted they they were trespassing and that they had no right on the premises. They expressed their regrets when taken to the Central Police Station. Mr. B. H. Fleet, British owner and operator of the news agency, a former Harbin resident, consented to their release.

At the same time, the two cameramen refused to give up the pictures they had taken on the grounds that their pictures had been taken while they were in the hands of the police by Photographer George Lacks. It is true that Mr. Lacks did photograph the two men, and one of the pictures appears in this issue of *THE CHINA PRESS*.

They declared that as long as a foreign photographer had taken their pictures, which they felt might be published, they thought they had the right to publish the pictures taken by themselves of the *Fleet News Agency*. Mr. Fleet made no objection to their keeping the pictures and the men were subsequently released by the police.

The incident caused something of a stir in the Lee Building, where the *Fleet News Agency* is located. Members of the office staff, seeing the flash bulbs go off, thought for a moment that the place was being bombed. During the chase that ensued, large numbers of Chinese gathered around to watch the proceedings. But when it was found that the men carried no bombs, the crowd dispersed and the excitement died down.

SHANGHAI TIMES.

OCT 7 1939

**FLEET NEWS OFFICE  
PHOTOGRAPHED****"Tairiku Shimpo" Camera  
Man Takes A Picture  
Without Permission**

Considerable excitement was evidenced along Avenue Edward VII, outside "The Shanghai Times" Building at about 5.30 p.m. yesterday when police whistles blew and a chase ensued for a Japanese carrying a leather valise and a Chinese accompanying him, both dressed in foreign style clothes.

When the men who were stopped and the man, who started the hue and cry came together with the police it was revealed that the Japanese cameraman, who stated that he was employed by the "Tairiku Shimpo," leading local Japanese daily, had entered without permission the office of the Fleet News Agency on the third floor of "The Shanghai Times" Building, suddenly put out all lights and then flashed a picture with his camera, then running out of the room and down the stairs, followed by an employee of the Fleet News Agency and a detective stationed in the building.

The Japanese cameraman and his Chinese assistant were detained by a member of the Reserve Unit, S.M.P., pending the arrival of an officer from the Central Police Station. The "Tairiku Shimpo" chauffeur, who drove up the cameraman and his assistant was also asked to wait. The Japanese cameraman explained that he had been instructed by his manager to take a picture of the office of the Fleet News Agency and produced a business card of a "Mr. M. Nagata," on which was written in pencil, "Fleet News Agency, Avenue Edward VII."

The cameraman did not consider it illegal that he had not asked permission before he took a picture in a private office, but acting as a real "live wire," wanted to take pictures of the crowds that gathered round him and the police. Upon request of an employee of the Fleet News Agency he refused to give up the negative, which he snapped in the former's face.

The whole group were taken to the Central Police for an investigation. They were released at about 6.15 p.m.

## NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS,

OCT 7 1939

**Japanese Cameramen  
Arrested, Released****Crash Into News Agency  
To Take Pictures**

Two Japanese photographers alleged to be employees of the "Tairiku Shimbun," local Japanese-language daily, unceremoniously burst into the offices of the Fleet News Agency on the third floor of 160 Avenue Edward VII shortly after 5.15 p.m. yesterday and took a number of flashlight pictures. Their attempts to run away, however, failed and a foreign employee of the agency informed a police constable on duty in front of the building, who in turn telephoned to Central Police Station. A party of police attended and took the two Japanese photographers to the station together with a Chinese translator employed by the agency.

The two photographers are alleged to have said that they had received instructions from their employers to take pictures of the offices of the news agency and that they understood that the necessary permission had been obtained by their employers.

While officials of the news agency at first insisted that the films should be returned, they desisted and the two Japanese photographers were released shortly afterwards.

File No. ....

**SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.**

S.1. Special Branch /~~6/1/16/1/1~~/

## REPORT

Date November 30, 1937

*Subject (in full)* B. Hayton Fleet - further report.

Made by D. S. Larby

Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch), the attached Special Branch report dated November 27 was shown to Mr. A.G.N. Ogden, H.B.M. Consul.

Regarding the pirating of Reuters' news by Fleet, Mr. Ogden expressed the opinion that this was a matter which was purely the concern of Reuters and in which neither the Consulate nor the Municipal Police could interfere.

Mr. Ogden added, however, that if the Municipal Advocate was satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to prove that Fleet's news sheets contained subject matter of an anti-Japanese nature and therefore, likely to bring about a breach of the peace, H.B.M. Consulate-General would be prepared to curb Fleet's activities.

D. S.

**D.C. (Special Branch).**

**The Fleet News Agency**

SHANGHAI OFFICE  
TELEPHONE 13983

愛多亞路一六〇號三樓  
**英國快訊社上海分社**  
電話一三九八三號

I

NOVEMBER 30.1937.

**PRIME MINISTER GIVES LUNCHEON TO FRENCH.**

LONDON. November 29. (Fleetnews). The Prime Minister Mr. Neville Chamberlain to-day gave a luncheon party in honour of the visiting French Ministers M. Chautemps and M. Delbos. The following British Ministers were present, Sir John Simon, Lord Halifax, Lord Halifax, Mr. Anthony Eden and Sir Thomas Inskip. This evening Mr. Anthony Eden is giving a dinner party in his private house in honour of the French visitors. (Fleetnews).

**ECONOMIC SITUATION AGGRAVATED IN USA.**

MOSCOW. November 29. (Fleetnews). The New York "Pravda" correspondent reports that the aggravation of the economic situation is arousing alarm in business circles. The decline is particularly noticeable in heavy industry, the steel smelting enterprises working to only thirty per cent capacity, reaching the level which existed during the climax of the crisis. The index production of automobiles has dropped from 157.1 in the middle of October to 102.4 by November 6, the index of train-car loadings from 108.9 down to 96.1 from October. the index of textile wool, woodworking and footwear industries have also dropped sharply. This drop in production has been accompanied by mass discharge of workers, and in this connection the trade turnover, especially sales of articles for general consumption has dwindled. The Government has been compelled to reduce the expenditure public works, and the ground is once more beginning to shake under the feet of American business circles. (Fleetnews)

**KING GEORGE RETURNS TO LONDON.**

LONDON. November 29. (Fleetnews). King George returned to London this evening, after having spent a weekend shooting accompanied by a number of friends. (Fleetnews).

NOVEMBER 30.1937.

**THE CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS.**

LONDON. November 29. (Fleetnews). It is understood that exchanges are proceeding between British diplomatic and consular representatives with the Japanese authorities, both in Tokyo and Shanghai, regarding a provisional regime for the administration of the Chinese Customs at Shanghai during the period of emergency. (Fleetnews).

**USSR WARD ELECTION COMMISSIONS.**

MOSCOW. November 29. (Fleetnews). The "Pravda" devotes an editorial to the work of the ward election commissions, stating that 135,000 ward election commissions have been organised throughout the USSR, about one and a half million people composing these commissions. Workers, collective farmers, employees, Red Army Men, intelligentsia have been drawn into the organisation of the elections to the Supreme Organ of State Power of the USSR, this being a manifestation of genuine democracy, as the Soviet system of democracy is unprecedented and impossible in any other country. (Fleetnews).

**FOOD SITUATION IN GERMANY AGGRAVATED.**

BERLIN. November 29. (Fleetnews). The food situation in Germany continues to be aggravated, in spite of the fact that the flow of circulars for the reduction of consumption and appeals to economise have lately been increasing. Fresh circulars issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supplies request the population to eat chiefly potatoes, turneps, peas, lentiles, milk powder, artificial honey etc. Vegetable oils and other fats, as well as pork, are still in the list of products the consumption of which is to be subjected to further restrictions. (Fleetnews).



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TELEPHONE 13983

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英國快訊社上海分社  
電話一三九八三號

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NOVEMBER 30. 1937.

#### LOST SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE EVER HELD.

LONDON. November 29. (Fleetnews). The conference between French and British statesmen resulted in many points being clearly defined. The Ministers review of the International situation touched upon M. Delbos' forthcoming visit to Central Europe. The position in countries he will visit was discussed both governments being concerned for the preservation of peace in such countries as elsewhere. The Ministers did not fail to give attention to the situation in the Far East, the seriousness of which was fully appreciated. There was agreement also on the need for vigilance to safeguard interests at stake. The situation in Spain was also examined and British and French Ministers took note that the policy of Non-Intervention had been fully justified. Those in closest touch with to-day's proceedings declare that both the British and French representatives were very well satisfied and indeed the conference is regarded as one of the most successful ever held. It is believed a clear desire was shown on both sides for wider co-operation, including all countries, though it was realised a great deal more preparation would be required before actual negotiations could be visualised. (B.O.P. through Fleetnews).

#### EDUCATION IN U.S.S.R. FAR EAST.

VLADIVOSTOCK. November 29. (Fleetnews). A school building made of strong timber of 1000 cubic metres volume, has been shipped to a small settlement on the Behring Sea. Schools are springing up in Sakhalin and Kamchatka and other points in the northern part of the Far East. During the present year 300 teachers have arrived in the Far East to teach scholars in elementary schools. (Fleetnews).

NOVEMBER 30.1937.

**RED ARMY MEN FULLY PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS.**

MOSCOW. November 29. (Fleetnews). The "Izvestia" in an editorial, writes "The Red Army of the Soviet Union is an inseparable part of the nation, and each citizen in its ranks, retains his full thought and possibilities of actively participating in the political life of the country,. It is therefore quite natural that the Red Army enthusiastically participates in the preparations for the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. It is also perfectly natural that among the nominations to the Supreme Soviet, the toilers have selected not a small number of rank and file and commanders of the Red Army. Many hundreds of election meetings have nominated the candidature of Voroshilov, the First Marshal of the Soviet Union, an unbending Stalinist leader the armed forces of the Soviet Union, and the nominations include his closest comrade-in-arms, commanders covered with glory in the heroic battles of the civil war. Among the candidates there are also quite a number of young rank and file Red Army men and junior commanders, who have proved to be devoted sons of their Motherland and who have raised the cause entrusted to them to tremendous heights" (Fleetnews).

**FRENCH STEAMER ATTACKED BY PLANE.**

MARSEILLES. November 29. (Fleetnews). It is reported here that a French cargo steamer was attacked last night by an unknown aeroplane, about fifteen miles off Cape Creus. The plane dropped several bombs, which all fell into the sea without doing any harm to the vessel. (Fleetnews).

**NO MORE VISITS ARRANGED.**

LONDON. November 29. (Fleetnews). Lord Curzon, speaking to question in the House of Commons, stated that no further visits of British Ministers to foreign countries, or of foreign Statesmen to Britain had been arranged. (Fleetnews).

July 14, 1936.

Afternoon Translation.

Sin Wan Pao and other local newspapers :-

GENERAL CHIANG KAI SHEK SPEAKS ON A LIMITED DEGREE OF  
RESISTANCE

At the second session of the Second Plenary Conference, General Chiang Kai Shek delivered a speech in reply to the points submitted by the South-West delegates. The gist of his speech is as follows :-

"Among the proposals to be discussed to-day, the one submitted by Siao Fu Cheng and others of the South-West about the least limited degree of resistance to Japan and the salvation of the nation is the most important. The points suggested by the South-West comrades have been studied with great care by the National Government. Since the Fifth Congress last year, the National Government has been making every effort for the salvation of the country. The South-West are submitting such proposals simply because the comrades of the South-West have been too much estranged from the National Government during the past few years and are not well posted about the position in which the National Government has been placed. Therefore, the following explanation is necessary:- When we consider the critical stage of the nation's distress, we should not hesitate to make sacrifice in order to resist aggression and to save the country. Not only the Central Executive members but also the Chinese people, and even the students of primary schools, are thinking every minute of this question. But the most important question to be solved is: what steps we should take in the matter and what clear-cut policy should be adopted? After the Fifth Congress, a fixed policy was decided by the Government, i.e., that peaceful measures be not abandoned unless the national distress has reached its climax. The last stage of our peaceful diplomacy is to preserve our territorial integrity. We will not tolerate any encroachment upon our territorial sovereignty. We will not sign any agreement which will mean loss of territory. Supposing that a Power tries to compel us to recognize a bogus State, thereby impairing our territorial rights, we shall never tolerate this; we shall then make the final sacrifice. This is one point.

"Again, if our territorial rights have been further encroached upon and if our endeavours to remove this encroachment prove unsuccessful, we shall make the final sacrifice. However, the diplomatic situation during the past six months has never reached a point where peace has been entirely hopeless.

"The world is in sympathy with Abyssinia. We cannot say that we may not suffer the fate of Abyssinia. But when the time comes to save the country and to fight for the existence of our race, we are not afraid to follow Abyssinia's example. We shall fight because we do not want to suffer Abyssinia's fate. This can be prevented if the people and the members of the Party are loyal to the National Government. At this time when our country is facing great danger, we should exercise vigilance over all our acts. We are in sympathy with the spirit of the people of Abyssinia. All the members of the Party

July 14, 1936.

Afternoon Translation.

should work for the existence of our country. In the past few years, our comrades in Kwangtung and Kwangsi have had many misunderstandings. To-day the Presidium proposes the organization of a National Defence Conference, the chief significance of which is to induce all military officers in different parts of the country to unite and to discuss the situation of the country so that they may put up a joint resistance in case of foreign invasion. All comrades, especially the comrades in Kwangtung and Kwangsi, should pay attention to the proposal of the Presidium".

THE NAKAYAMA MURDER CASE : KWANGTUNG CLUB ISSUES NOTICE

The Kwangtung Club publishes the following urgent notice in the "Shun Pao" and other local newspapers :-

According to a report in yesterday's local newspapers of the trial of the accused charged with the murder of the Japanese marine Nakayama, it is stated that a Portuguese witness gave evidence that he met Yang Vung Tao (楊鳳桃) at our Club several years ago. We are exceedingly surprised over this statement. The Club has no member bearing the name of Yang Vung Tao, nor has any Portuguese come to this Club for a talk. To avoid misunderstanding, we hereby publish this notice for the information of the public.